

2008 U.S. Embassy Democracy Commission Grantees

Farmers' Union "Lore"

Establishing Information-Consulting Center in Dmanisi District for Georgian and Azeri Farmers for Economic Integration and Overcoming Poverty (\$15,083)

The goal of the project is to improve economic conditions of Dmanisi district population by establishing qualified information-consulting centre, targeting up to 320 local Georgian and Azeri farmers. At the Center the farmers will be able to obtain information on regional agro-business developments and to increase their knowledge in effective production and management, which will raise the efficiency of their investments and farming profitability.

Business Consulting Network Georgia

The Challenge (\$17,880)

The purpose of the projects is to stimulate sustainable entrepreneurial ventures in Batumi, Kutaisi, and Telavi in order to increase employment opportunities and professionalism in the communities via organization of a competition for viable business proposals, and further funding arrangement for the three most promising ideas. BCNG, together with the other partners, will offer the trainings in tailoring ideas into effective business plans to indigenous organizations.

Georgian Young Lawyers Association

Stop Violence in the Family (\$19,770)

The project aims to support the implementation of the Law of Georgia on Domestic Violence, adopted by the Parliament of Georgia on 25 May 2006, and the Government Action Plan. GYLA will keep monitoring the legal environment and effective implementation of the Law in close cooperation with the main stakeholders: government officials, NGOs, domestic as well as international experts. The organization will facilitate to the effective protection of the rights of domestic violence victims, and building their capacity to access justice and effective legal services.

Association of People with Disabilities "Gea"

Introduction and Popularization of Inclusive Education of Children with Disabilities in Pre-schools/Kindergartens (\$19,954)

The goal of the project is to integrate disabled pre-school age children by implementing an inclusive educational system in the selected kindergartens in Khashuri and Gori. The program will work directly with 10 disabled children and their parents and will affect indirectly hundreds of families with disabled children in the region. This project will help to change typical stereotype of parents regarding the education of handicap children and will train the teachers with special educational techniques.

The Union "21 Century"

Advancing Human Rights Protection and Integration of Vulnerable Groups: Joint Approach of Public Defender's Office and Civil Society (\$19,790)

This project will support the capacity building of the Public Defender's Office (PDO) in Kvemo Kartli and Samtskhe-Javakheti regions by appointing designated lawyers based in the regions, and establishing a complaints handling and action system based on the already existing practice of PDO. At the final stage the taskforce will issue the monitoring reports and situational analysis with the package of recommendations. Capacity enhancement of the Public Defender's Office

will contribute to the human rights protection, social integration and democratization in the remote regions of Georgia.

Georgian Association of Social Workers

Social Integration of Ethnic Minority Youth (\$18,930)

The goal of the project is to support the social integration of ethnic minority youth through empowering minority representatives and strengthening capacities of social workers, minority community leaders, journalists and local authorities in the minority integration work. The project will facilitate to the social integration of minority youth from Kvemo Kartli region by peering them up with social work graduate students to work on joint social advocacy projects at the Tbilisi State University. This grants also funds the development of the social work minority studies module for graduate programs at the Tbilisi State and Ilia Chavchavadze State Universities.

Caucasus Institute for Peace, Democracy and Development

Improving the Level of Transparency in Georgian Government through Promoting Policy Analysis Practice and Empowering Public Discourse (\$16,700)

The project intends to raise public participation in policy development, which will influence the decision making practices in Georgia. Civil society representatives, together with the officials from the state agencies, will take part in the public debates and discussions on specific public policy areas. Discussants will contribute to the development of policy analysis reports and policy briefs, which will provide valuable recommendations for the government from the joint afford of the civil society and public figures.

New Generation – New Initiative

Local Youth Self Governments (\$13,310)

The purpose of the project is to involve the youth in the decision-making process via creation of the groups that will work in the parallel regime with the Self-Governments (Tvitmartveloba) in Telavi, Marneuli and Akhaltsikhe. Youth groups will regularly attend the sessions of Self-Governments, work on the analysis of the problems existing in region and promote valuable initiatives. The project actively involves up to 45 teenagers and taking into the account that the selected regions are compactly settled with ethnic minorities, 1/3 of the participants will be representatives of the minority youth.

TV-Radio Broadcasting Company “Parvana”

Good Luck, Javakheti! (\$15,300)

The purpose of the project is to support the regional TV-Company by enriching its programs in order to inform the residents of Samtske-Javakheti region on the regional and state developments, and to provide a tribune for discussion of existing problems and popular themes. New programs will cover variety of topics including socio-economic developments, politics, agriculture, gender issues, etc. The support to Parvana TV-Company, broadcasting in the predominantly minority settled region of Samtske-Javakheti with the population of 90000, will facilitate to the minority community's social integration and involvement into the state development processes.

Publishing House "P.S."

Business Development Project of the Newspaper “P.S.” – Improving Management, Advertising and Distribution Levels (\$22,921)

The grant issued to the Kutaisi based independent weekly newspaper “P.S.” will support the management and institutional development for further organizational advance and financial stability increase. The grant will help the newspaper to improve information quality and distribution system, to attract bigger number of young readers by highlighting the topics of their interested, and most importantly to empower regional independent media to influence the democratic processes and civil society in the Imereti region.

Charity Humanitarian Centre “Abkhazeti”

Civic Partnership (\$18,780)

The project proposes the awareness growth on civic education and human rights protection in the districts adjusted to the Abkhazia A/R conflict zone. Two resource centers will be established within the framework of the project, involving up to 90 returnees living in Gali district and IDPs living in Zugdidi district. The members of the resource centers will be provided with the trainings on capacity building to advocate and lobby for the socially vulnerable groups and community based organizations.

Union of Wives of Invalids and Lost Warriors

We Choose Peace (\$19,880)

The project aims the restoration of trust through the people to people diplomacy among the representatives of the Georgian and Ossetian victims of the conflict in South Ossetia. Series of roundtable meetings will be held with up to the 200 representatives of various layers of the civil society, including mothers and wives of lost warriors, youth, mixed families, war invalids and veterans. The organization will publish the situation analysis and issue recommendations for the government based on the suggestions of the war affected population.

Young Men's Christian Association in Telavi

For a Better Future for Internally Displaced People of Telavi (\$7,035)

The grant supports the establishment of the department of Internally Displaced Persons’ affairs at the YMCA Telavi, which will work on IDPs problems in Kakheti region. The organization will offer trainings to up to 30 displaced young people on leadership, project writing, strategic planning, financial management and human rights. The outstanding and active trainees will be offered an employment at the organization over the next year to encourage integration of the displaced persons in the Telavi community and improve their quality of life.

Union of Youth Centers in Georgia ABNM

Promoting Integration of Youth in Akhaltsikhe District (\$10,060)

This project facilitates the social integration of Akhaltsikhe district ethnic Armenian youth in the Georgian society through civic education, discussion clubs, Georgian language and computer trainings. Through this project, up to 400 local youngsters will have the possibility to gain social and professional skills that will help them eventually to access better education and employment opportunities.

Union "IA"

Promotion of Self-activation of the Adult Disabled, their Family Members and Interested Persons (\$24,000)

The Project will contribute to the self-activation and adaptation within the society of the adult disabled and their relatives, as well as other vulnerable groups. The Project will offer trainings to the disabled people and their family members in handicraft and computer that allow them to gain

access to the information and employment. As a result of this project, up to 15 young disabled people will come out of isolation and engage in active public life.

Post-Conflict Assistance:

Georgian Association of Social Workers

Development of Institute of Social Workers and Case Management System for the Internally Displaced Persons in Gori (\$23,866)

The goal of the project is to establish the social workers' institute and case management system in Gori in order to address individual needs of the Internally Displaced Persons and contribute to their social integration. Social workers through the case management will provide individual need-based assessment system and intervention plans to the local government in Gori that will lead to using human and financial resources efficiently, eventually enhancing the integration of IDPs and improvement of their quality of life.

International Center "Education for Peace"

Psychological Counseling and Community Based Rehabilitation in Conflict and Post-Conflict Situations (\$19,865)

The aim of the project is to provide a psychological counseling to up to 400 Internally Displaced Persons from South Ossetia and Kodori Gorge currently living in IDP shelters in Tbilisi. The organization will implement psycho-counseling through engaging children in creative group work. Meanwhile, the adult members of the IDP community will be trained in stress management and self-helping skills' development. In addition, the project team will train 25 students in emergency counseling and publish a booklet on psycho-social rehabilitation and self-help for IDPs.

Media Center "Open Abkhazia"

"Voice of Abkhazia" for entire Georgia (\$23,832)

The grant will help to restore technical capacity of the Radio-Broadcaster Voice of Abkhazia severely damaged during the Russian aggression of August 2008. As a result of the project, Voice of Abkhazia will broadcast again the information, analytical and entertainment programs in the regions of Georgia, including the conflict zones of South Ossetia and Abkhazia.

Gori Regional Education Fund

English Teacher Training for Internally Displaced Educators (\$4,978)

The project will provide trainings in the latest methodologies in teaching English language to the teachers from the conflict zones so that, they will be more efficient in the classrooms upon their return to homes and schools. The goal of the project is to create a cadre of trained teachers from the war affected regions who will continue teacher trainings in the future using the materials developed for this project. During this program, up to 40 displaced English language teachers will be trained to teach those methods to their peers.